

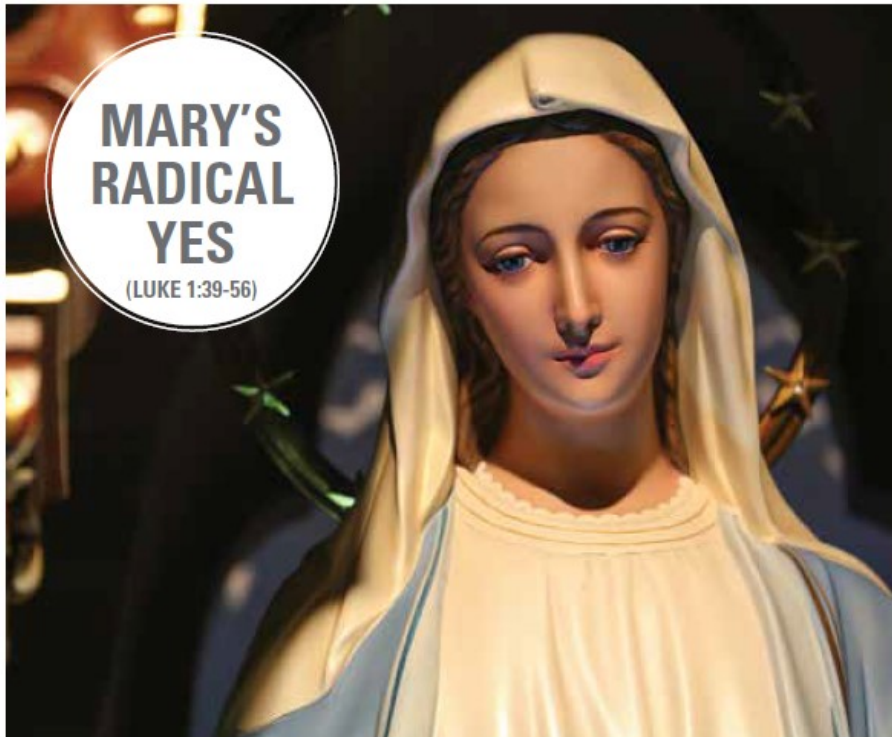
16 AUGUST 2020

# Sunday Message

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 4



Statue of Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Grace

In today's Gospel we hear Mary's Magnificat. It is a joyful hymn of praise to God who has not forgotten his lowly handmaid and has done such great things for her.

But it is also a subversive hymn, and it shows Mary to be a radical woman who hungers for justice for the poor and the little ones. Mary presents an image of God as one who pulls the mighty from their thrones and raises up the lowly, as one who fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty. She voices God's opposition to oppression, injustice and inequality of whatever kind.

Mary's Magnificat hymn shows that she is no gentle, passive, silent woman. She is, rather, a voice of the voiceless, and mother of all who are oppressed and overlooked and weak. Mary's preferences and her hopes for our world are our preferences and our hopes too. ■

## REFLECT

**W**e Catholics have traditionally held Mary in the highest esteem. We rank her as first among the saints, and we honour her with feasts and titles because, in the words of Vatican II, she is "the Church's outstanding model in faith and love". Mary is our model because she shows us better than anyone ever did, or ever will, what it means to be a disciple. Her whole life was a constant "yes" to God.

When the angel Gabriel told her at the annunciation of God's astonishing plan for her, she was surprised and afraid, but she did not allow her fear to overwhelm her. She answered, "Be it done unto me according to your word." Her "yes" to God changed the course of history. It allowed God's Spirit to take hold of her so that the Son of God could take flesh in our midst. No one has ever listened more willingly or responded more generously to God.

In his public ministry, Jesus described the true disciple as one who hears the word of God and keeps it. That sums up Mary in a nutshell. She shows us what it means to listen to and keep God's word. She shows us the true meaning of faith and trust in God. ■

## SAY

"Lord, thank you for giving me Mary as my mother. Help me to follow her example so that I may share in her son's resurrection. Amen."

## PRAY

God, thank you for the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus.  
Thank you for her goodness.  
Thank you for her openness.  
Thank you for her generosity.  
Thank you for her faith.  
Thank you for her example.  
Thank you for her perseverance.  
Thank you for her faithfulness.  
Thank you for her resurrection joy.  
Thank you for taking her up to heaven.  
Thank you for her prayers for us.  
Thank you for reminding us, through her, that we are made for heaven.  
Thank you for Mary, the mother of Jesus and thank you, God, for all your good gifts.

## DO

Rejoice in good news.

Pray for those who receive bad news.

Ponder the joy and peace of the saints in heaven.

## LEARN

Today we celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Mary. We celebrate our belief that Mary was taken up, body and soul, into heaven, where she enjoys eternal life in the company of her son. It is a joyful feast for us Christians because it points to what we believe will be our destiny. We believe that what God has done for Mary, God will do for us also; that at the end of time God will raise our mortal bodies and bring us into the fullness of God's life for ever.



The statue of the Virgin Mary is escorted during the annual Assumption procession in the Le Panier district of Marseille, France.



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Let us all rejoice in the Lord,  
as we celebrate the feast day in honour of  
the Virgin Mary,  
at whose Assumption the Angels rejoice  
and praise the Son of God.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary,  
the Mother of your Son,  
body and soul into heavenly glory,  
grant, we pray,  
that, always attentive to the things that are  
above,  
we may merit to be sharers of her glory.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** *Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6, 10*

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened,  
and the ark of the covenant could be seen  
inside it.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven; a  
woman, adorned with the sun, standing  
on the moon, and with the twelve stars on  
her head for a crown. She was pregnant,  
and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of  
childbirth. Then a second sign appeared  
in the sky, a huge red dragon which had  
seven heads and ten horns, and each of the  
seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its  
tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky  
and dropped them to earth, and the dragon  
stopped in front of the woman as she was  
having the child, so that he could eat it as  
soon as it was born from its mother. The  
woman brought a male child into the world,  
the son who was to rule all the nations with  
an iron sceptre, and the child was taken  
straight up to God and to his throne, while  
the woman escaped into the desert where  
God had made a place of safety ready. Then  
I heard a voice shout from heaven, "Victory  
and power and empire for ever have been  
won by our God, and all authority for his  
Christ."

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 44

Response:

**On your right stands the queen,  
in garments of gold.**

1. The daughters of kings are among your  
loved ones.  
On your right stands the queen in gold of  
Ophir.  
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:  
forget your own people and your father's  
house. (R.)
2. So will the king desire your beauty:  
he is your Lord, pay homage to him.  
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;  
they pass within the palace of the king (R.)

**SECOND READING** *1 Corinthians 15:20-26*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the  
first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.  
Death came through one man and in the  
same way the resurrection of the dead has  
come through one man. Just as all men die  
in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in  
Christ; but all of them in their proper order:  
Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the  
coming of Christ, those who belong to him.  
After that will come the end, when he hands  
over the kingdom to God the Father, having  
done away with every sovereignty, authority  
and power. For he must be king until he has  
put all his enemies under his feet and the last  
of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for  
everything is to be put under his feet.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Mary has been taken up into heaven;  
all the choirs of angels are rejoicing.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Luke 1:39-56

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Luke.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she  
could to a town in the hill country of Judah.  
She went into Zechariah's house and greeted  
Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard  
Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb  
and Elizabeth was filled with Holy Spirit. She  
gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women you  
are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit  
of your womb. Why should I be honoured  
with a visit from the mother of my Lord?  
For the moment your greeting reached my  
ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes,  
blessed is she who believed that the promise  
made her by Lord would be fulfilled."

And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the  
Lord  
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;  
because he has looked upon his lowly  
handmaid.

Yes, from this day forward all generations  
will call me blessed,  
for the Almighty has done great things for  
me.

Holy is his name,  
and his mercy reaches from age to age for  
those who fear him.

He has shown the power of his arm,  
he has routed the proud of heart.  
He has pulled down princes from their  
thrones and exalted the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things,  
the rich sent empty away.  
He has come to the help of Israel his  
servant, mindful of his mercy  
– according to the promise he made to our  
ancestors –

of his mercy to Abraham and to his  
descendants for ever."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three  
months and then went back home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May this oblation, our tribute of homage,  
rise up to you, O Lord,  
and, through the intercession of the most

Blessed Virgin Mary,  
whom you assumed into heaven,  
may our hearts, aflame with the fire of love,  
constantly long for you.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

All generations will call me blessed,  
for he who is mighty has done great things  
for me.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having received the Sacrament of salvation,  
we ask you to grant, O Lord,  
that, through the intercession of the Blessed

Virgin Mary,  
whom you assumed into heaven,  
we may be brought to the glory of the  
resurrection.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# ***Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon***

## ***1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL***

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath  
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson  
Office Hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday  
Office Email: [abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Tel: 01235 520375  
Tel: 01235 520375

*We live stream all services*

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230  
Visits at JR Hospital: Fr Pius 01865 221732  
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office  
Parish Website: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)  
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**PARISH OFFICE:** The parish office is open on Tuesdays to Fridays from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

### **PRIVATE PRAYER**

- The church will be open for **private prayer only**, between **12.00pm and 1.00pm on Tuesdays and Fridays**.

### **MASS BOOKINGS**

Please remember that **bookings for the whole week beginning Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August** should be made on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August**. Do **please try and give us several options for days/times** when you could come and let us know **how many people you are booking for**. We will do our best to accommodate your request. If you would like to attend more than one Mass in the week, please make this clear when you book.

- Those people **without** Internet access can phone **07395 946827** between 10am and 11am **each Monday** to give the day of the week when they are able to attend Mass. **There is no recorded answering message system**. Please do not use the office phone number or phone outside of this time period.
- Those **with** Internet access are asked **not** to use the phone booking system, but instead to email us at: **[contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)** giving us 2 to 3 possible days of the week when you can attend Mass. Please do this **each Monday**. You will then receive a reply with the day allocated to you.
- In all cases, you are asked to state the number in your family who will be attending Mass. This is essential for our planning and to maintain safety distances.
- Be aware that singing is not yet permitted under the guidelines. Also, there will be no collection basket passed around, but you may leave donations as you leave the Church.
- Please note that there are currently only **two** Sunday Masses – one at **10.15am and the other at 6.30pm**.

Thank you all very much for your patience and help.

### **20<sup>th</sup> week of Ordinary Time**

***In Church for those who booked, and also live streamed***

**Sunday 16 August** **ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
10.15am Mass (Kate Clipperton, RIP)  
1.00pm Polish Mass  
6.30pm Mass (People of the Parish)

**Monday 17 August**  
9am Mass (Therese Foret, RIP)

**Tuesday 18 August**  
NO Mass See: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse) for other masses

**Wednesday 19 August**  
7pm Mass (Mike Moriarty, RIP)

**Thursday 20 August (St Bernard)**  
9.30am Mass (Special Intention, AF)

**Friday 21 August (St Pius X)**  
7pm Mass (Special Intention)

**Saturday 22 August (The Queenship of Mary)**  
9am Mass (Naughton family intentions)

**THE MONTH OF AUGUST** is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

## **HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS**

### **No Internet Access?**

Phone **07395 946827** **EACH MONDAY** between 10am and 11am **ONLY** to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

### **Have Internet Access?**

**DON'T** phone. Instead, email: **[contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)** **EACH MONDAY**, to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week



## FAITH IN PRACTICE

Lockdown deprived us of that greatest of gifts – to worship Christ in His real presence in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle and to receive Him sacramentally during Mass. We are blessed in our parish to be able to do this once again. The Eucharist sustains and strengthens us! If you are able to, *don't deny yourself any longer* – you are encouraged to come along for quiet and private prayer on Tuesdays and/or Fridays between 12pm and 1pm or, even **better**, *come along to a Mass during the week* (using our booking system).

## LAUDATO SI':

On the 5th anniversary of the publication of *Laudato Si'* - in May this year - Pope Francis announced the beginning of a *Laudato Si'* Year. He encouraged everyone to actively participate in the *Season of Creation* which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. More information is available on the 'News' page of our website.

## NEWSLETTER:

Please note that, for now, we are unable to provide the newsletter in church. If you would like a copy for the readings and prayers, please print your own copy from the *News* page of our website (if you have the Internet) or for those without Internet access, bring the copy delivered to you on Saturdays. We are also unable to accept any books, pamphlets, etc. at this point in time, so please don't bring any of these with you.

## YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!

The parish still needs your donations. You can make these on our website. This will enable those who normally use the weekly gift aid white envelope system or loose plate donations to continue to support the Parish. *You can also place donations in the basket as you leave church.* **Your continued support for the Parish is greatly appreciated.**



## ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL - STAFF VACANCIES

St Edmund's School are currently advertising the following vacancies to start in September 2020.

- **Caretaker** - 20 hours per week
- **Cleaner-in-Charge** - 15 hours per week, term-time + 5 INSET Days + 2 weeks (41 weeks)

Further details of these posts are available on the School website or by contacting the School Office. **Applications close on 17th August 2020.**

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER DURING MASS:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## Parish Events for the Week

**NO EVENTS IN THE PARISH CENTRE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

## Future Diary Dates

*No events at the moment.*

## Youth Events

### YOUTH GROUPS

*The Saturday youth groups will stop meeting for now. We will let you know when they resume through our parish newsletter.*

## ONLINE FAITH DEVELOPMENT COURSES:

Please consider joining other parishioners in an **online faith development course** starting on Zoom soon. If you are interested in either, please contact [clare@claresimpson.com](mailto:clare@claresimpson.com) as soon as you can, as the workbooks need to be ordered from the States!

### Psalms Study Course

At the heart of the Bible are the Psalms. The Holy Spirit inspired them. Israel sang them. Jesus himself prayed them. This 11 week course shows you how to develop a personal dialogue with God through praying and meditating on the Psalms.

**Tuesdays, 7.45pm, starting 1<sup>st</sup> September [OR](#) Wednesdays 9.30am, starting 2<sup>nd</sup> September.**

### Seek Wisdom and Increase your Sense of Peace Course

This eight week course draws on the wisdom literature of the Bible and shows us how to relate it to our daily life and increase our sense of peace and joy in everything we do. It will show us how to learn new habits and gain confidence in living according to God's will.

**Wednesdays 7.45pm, starting 2<sup>nd</sup> September [OR](#) Fridays 9.30am, starting 4<sup>th</sup> September.**

## BIBLE ALIVE

The **SEPTEMBER** issue is now available. If you would like a copy delivered, please email: [contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk) giving your name and postal address and we will get a copy to you. If you don't have email, leave a message on the office phone number.

## PRAYING THE ROSARY

If you would like to join us on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 8pm in August, please email us on: [contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk) so that we can send you the *new* link.

## WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF:

- Matilda Christie
- Alice Devlin
- Beth Millikin
- Todd Churchman